

Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

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WAIT LISTS GROW AS WALKER IS ORDERED TO REMOVE CAPS FOR FAMILY CARE

"It's clear to me that the State budget is being balanced on the backs of the elderly and disabled. The people of Wisconsin deserve better than this." – Supervisor Jursik

Milwaukee, WI – In a news release issued last October, Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik promised to document the wait lists for Milwaukee County in Family Care after the State budget created a cap in enrollment without obtaining waivers from the federal Medicaid administration. The wait list for the elderly is now at 675 compared to 442 in October. Governor Scott Walker has been ordered to remove the cap his administration created. Putting a face on this act by the Walker administration, 675 elderly in Milwaukee County are now paying the price. Family Care saves money by permitting these elderly to obtain less costly community services than enrollment in a nursing home. These 675 frail citizens now have no choice to avoid placement in costly nursing homes, even when they could function with a lower level of supportive care.

The growing wait list for the disabled in Milwaukee County now stands at **1,539**; more than the 1,501 during last October. "To be clear, the State budget is being balanced on the backs of the elderly and disabled. The people of our State deserve better than this," Supervisor Jursik said. "I call on our State government to eliminate this waiting list by removing the enrollment cap and getting back to the promises of the Family Care program."

"My office will continue to document the wait list numbers on a quarterly basis until our State complies with the federal requirements that govern Family Care," Supervisor Jursik added. "This innovative and nationally-recognized program was developed during the Tommy Thompson administration. When Walker recently announced he would lift the caps on Family Care, it was in effect announcing that he was putting out the house fire that he himself had started."